

Aug 268

AUREOLIUS: Commander of Gallienus's
forces in victory over Ingenuus in 260 and
Acerianus in 261. He rebelled in 262
but was reconciled with Gallienus. He
was covaly commander in 265 in
campaign against POSTUMUS. In 268
stationed at Milan to defend Alpine passes
against POSTUMUS but defected and
declared himself emperor a second time in
Aug 268. He was killed at Milan by the

soldiers of Claudius 11 the following months

The Gothic invasion of 268 was the last great catastrophe of Gallienus's reign. It was this which prevented him taking any further action against POSTUMUS in Gaul.

Sept 268

Leaving conduct of the Gothic War to his general, Gallienus returned to Italy in Sept 268, defeated Aureolus at PONTIROLO and laid siege to him at Milan. Before Gallienus could bring the affair to a successful conclusion, however, he fell victim to a conspiracy among his officers. One night after dark a messenger arrived with false information

that the enemy were attacking. Disturbed
by the news, Gallienus hurried from his
tent without his usual bodyguard.
Unprotected, he was struck down by the
commander of his Dalmatian Cavalry, the
new mobile striking force which he
himself had created as part of his army
reforms.

He was buried in a tomb on the VIA APPIA,
9 mi south of Rome. His successor Claudius
secured divine honours from the Senate. Gallienus
had barred senators from military office.

Sept 268

Gallienus was murdered in
camp outside Milan.

He was buried in a tomb
on the Via Appia.

Sept 268

Claudius II accession to the
throne: emperor of Rome.

wife & children unknown.

He was the first in a distinguished line
of Illyrian emperors which extended well
into the following century. Before his
elevation to Augustus, Claudius II had

held important military commands under
Valerian and Gallienus, and ~~was~~ regarded
by the army as the natural choice for emperor
when Gallienus was murdered in Sept 268
His accession was welcomed by the
senate and to have been popular with
the people of Rome.

Gallienus's wife SALONINA, appointed Augusta, and Mater Castrorum (Mother of the Army) in 254 was probably murdered along with Gallienus in 268. At the same time, their youngest son Maximianus, only 3 yrs old, is thought to have been killed at Rome by order of the senate along with Gallienus's brother Publius Licinius Valerianus, their

two older sons were already dead. the
eldest perished in Illyricum in 258 probably
from natural causes; the 2nd son
Saloninus, was murdered by the Gallic
usurper POSTUMUS at Colonia Agrippina
in 260.

Gallicenus had taken a concubine
named PIPRA, daughter of ATTALUS, king of
the MARCOMMANI (part of a treaty by which
Gallicenus ceded Roman territory to Attalus in
return for his assistance against other Germanic
invaders.

The PALMYRENS easily defeated
the Roman general whom Gallienus
sent against them and control of
the east passed to the redoubtable
ZENOBIA, widow of ODAEWATHUS,
and their young son Vaballathus.

Sept 268

When Gallienus was killed at Milan, by the commander of the DALMATIAN cavalry, Claudius II was in command of a military reserve at TICINUM (modern Pavia), 20 mi away. He immediately took command of operations against AUREOLUS, MILAN surrendered, and Aureolus was executed. No action was taken against the murderers of Gallienus. Claudius II persuaded the senate to deify his predecessor & ordered a stop to

the murder of Sallustius' supporters
at Rome.

268

Gaths invade Greece

late
autumn 268

Having settled affairs in Milan, Claudius II marched north to confront the ALEMANNI, who had once again invaded Roman territory, crossing the Alps to threaten Italy itself. In late autumn of 268 he inflicted a crushing defeat on the invaders in the vicinity of Lake Garda. He spent the following winter in Rome, before setting out northwards to finish off the Goths.

campaign begun by Gallienus the previous
year. Claudius campaigned successfully
against them in 269.

268-270

Claudius II was emperor

268-270 reigned

born 214 died 270

CLAUDIUS II